

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD
MINUTES

Date: February 6, 2019
Time: 7:00pm
Place: Town Hall
Egremont

Present at the table were Chairman Turner, Vice-Chairman McGurn, Selectman Brazie.

Others in attendance: Eileen Vining, Marj Wexler, Mary McGurn, Melissa Vincent, Dawn Lemmon, Alexis and Rob Fakelmann, Paul Storit, Adam Chait, and an unnamed woman.

Pledge of allegiance was recited.

It was announced that the meeting is video and audio recorded.

MINUTES:

The minutes of January 22, January 24 and January 28 were accepted as presented.

SCHEDULED ISSUES:

The Board interviewed Alexis Fakelmann for a position on the Conservation Commission. The Board unanimously accepted the resignation of Ron Ronan from the Commission and unanimously voted to appoint Alexis to fill the vacancy.

NEW BUSINESS:

Melissa Vincent and Dawn Lemmon updated the Board on the status of the current CDBH Housing Rehab grant program. Egremont had 30 pre-applications. The program, which covers Monterey, Sandisfield and Egremont only has enough funding for 22 applicants. Melissa and Dawn presented the data on the FY 2019 grant round and the Board voted unanimously to participate. Melissa and Dawn are working out an office on Main Street in Great Barrington. The FY 2018 applicants not funded can roll over to the FY 2019 program.

SCHEDULED ISSUES:

The Board called Legal Counsel Jeremia Pollard to discuss the title search on the Congregational Church of South Egremont. The Attorney for the Church has asked if Jeremia would do the title search and the church would pay. Jeremia would prefer that the Town order and pay for the title search to avoid any conflict. The Board agreed. Jeremia will redraft the article to show that the acceptance of the gift is contingent upon the Town's legal counsel certifying the title that is marketable and insurable.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board voted unanimously to certify that the summer seasonal population for purpose of the ABCC establishing the number of liquor licenses Egremont can issue is 5000 residents.

The Board voted unanimously as allowed by MGL Chapter 44, Section 31D, to allow expenditures in excess of the appropriation for Snow & Ice removal for the Fiscal Year 2019.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Board agreed that with any new school assessment formula proposed it should be as close to the statutory method as possible, and that a 5 year average made sense.

The Board spelled out the purpose of the Housing Committee:

Craft home owner association rules and regulations for the current Affordable Housing project.

Develop a survey/inventory of rental units in Egremont towards identifying possible places for affordable housing.

Find funding and help in drafting a Housing Production Plan.

FOLLOW UPS/UPDATES:

Preparations are under way to move forward with the bidding for the ADA upgrades at the South Egremont School. It has been agreed that it makes no sense to apply for Mass Historic Commission funding as the time line of the grant does not meet the needs of the time line to get the work done. The Historical Commission wants to move the access ramp from the west side to the east side and install a prefab ramp instead of a concrete and stone ramp. This will require approval from MHC and Mass Architectural Access Board. Also the Commission suggested child size bathroom fixtures instead of adult size. The school will be asked for its opinion. The Board will follow up on the exterior lead remediation at the School House as there seems to have been no action by the district to get it done.

Construct, Inc was the only attendee at the pre-bid conference for the Affordable Housing Land lease RFP. As it stands right now the homes will be moved to Egremont in Mid-May. Driveway access will need to be done by then.

Only one proposal was received for the broadband project, from Fiber Connect. The Committee will meet on February 20 to begin review. Mary will check with the Town of Mount Washington to confirm they are moving forward with an agreement to supply broadband services for a handful of residents near the town line.

George reported that the next meeting of the combined bylaw review committee will take place on February 21.

SELECTMEN'S ITEMS:

The Board will meet on February 20th and will include FY 2020 budget review on its agenda.

At 7:56 pm the Board voted unanimously to go into Executive Session for strategy with respect to union negotiations as allowed by MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21, Paragraph 3 and not return to open session.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16pm.


Mary Brazier
Office Administrator

minutes.19/feb6

The recording of the minutes is on record at the Town Hall for 90 days. Anyone who wishes to may obtain a copy or listen to the recording at Town Hall. Attachments are on file at Town Hall.